



NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup

Collaborating for Results and Inspiration in New Hampshire

Benefits:

- Successful in receiving over \$3 million dollars in grant funds that go directly toward municipal efforts.
- Municipal projects include: installation of green infrastructure, planning for a dam removal, replacement of culverts, installation of a tide gauge, vulnerability assessments, economic impact analysis, mapping and flood plain analysis and building municipal capacity.
- The workgroup brings new research to communities and makes the science understandable and useful.

What they did, and why:

In response to the threats of climate change to the NH coastal watershed (which include extreme storms, flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise among other impacts) a group of government, non-governmental, university, municipal and private organizations formed a collaborative to help inform and to provide resources for communities in the NH coastal watershed. They formed the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (NH CAW) in 2010. The New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup (NH CAW) has grown and it is now a collaboration of 21 organizations working to help communities in New Hampshire’s coastal watershed prepare for the impacts of extreme weather events and long term climate change. NHCAW provides communities with resources, technical assistance, education, facilitation and guidance. NH CAW has also held four annual Climate Summits, 12 workshops, and a Shoreline Conference.



Benefits continued

- NH CAW has influenced policy and the formation of a Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission by the NH Legislature.
- Sponsor the first king tide photo contest.
- Produce a quarterly newsletter “The Crow’s Nest” and a radio spot.
- The NH CAW model has been replicated by groups in New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts.

Cost

- Direct cost = Zero
- Indirect cost = Time and effort to get collaborative going, host educational events and continued technical assistance.

Decision makers and community members need to understand the science, and the risks from climate impacts. Knowing who they can trust and where to get the information they need builds their confidence. NH CAW provides a constant and trustworthy presence in our coastal watershed communities. Much of our work focuses on education and helping them get started. The communities report back that they need grant money for projects as well as the technical assistance we provide to guide them. It is a wonderful collaborative and I am proud to be a part of the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup.

*Sherry Godlewski,
Co- Chair of NHCAW,
NH Department of
Environmental
Services*